

SARAH DIXON BROADBENT

Biography from the Lehi Centennial History

Sarah D. Broadbent was born in Saddleworth, Yorkshire, England, April 8, 1832, being a daughter of Samuel Dixon and Hannah Percival. When she was twelve years old, her father, who was a stone mason, was killed while working on a bridge, by a large stone falling on him as it was being raised into position by a derrick. Her mother having died some time previous, the duties of keeping house for her three brothers and caring for a baby sister now rested on her. She never went to school, but in addition to keeping house she commenced to work in the cotton mills when quite young.

In 1855 she became converted to the teachings of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and while in attendance at these meetings she met her future husband, Joseph Broadbent, whom she soon after married.

With her husband and a large company of Saints she emigrated to Utah in 1859, crossing the plains in George Rowley's handcart company. Some time before reaching Devil's Slide the provisions ran so low that rations of 4 ounces of flour a day were issued, which also were exhausted.

The travelers finally got so weak for lack of food that it' was impossible to proceed farther and some distance this side of Devil's Slide the company halted, waiting for help to come from the valley, as the captain had dispatched a messenger on horseback to Brigham Young, telling of their condition. After waiting a few days, the captain was in the act of negotiating with some traders for a small quantity of flour on Brigham Young's credit, when to their great joy the relief train from the valley hove in sight.

From this time until they reached the valley they had all they wanted to eat. At the mouth of Emigration Canyon the company was met by a brass band and escorted to Pioneer Square. At the mouth of the canyon the women were invited to ride in the wagons which had come out to meet them, but Mrs. Broadbent replied that she had walked every step of the way thus far and she would finish the journey as she had begun.

Mrs. Broadbent is the mother of eight children, three of whom are now living: Joseph Samuel, Eliza Ann (Mrs. Andrew Fjeld), and Geneva Rebecca (Mrs. Ben-jamin C. Lott). After a lingering illness of seven years, she died September 13, 1888.

